

Cannabis Procedure

Procedure #PPL-PRO-17

Version	Version Date (MM/DD/YYYY)	Next Review Date (MM/DD/YYYY)	Description of Changes
01	11/05/2018	11/05/2024	Initial release in new format
02	10/20/2023	10/20/2025	General review and Update (Titles, Contact #'s)

David Truax, Executive Director, Campus Safety Services	01/22/2024
Policy Holder	Date (MM/DD/YYYY)

College Council	10/11/2018
Advising Body	Date Consulted (MM/DD/YYYY)

David Johnson, Vice President, Finance and Corporate Services	05/08/2024
Approver	Date (MM/DD/YYYY)

Purpose

Georgian College is committed to providing a safe and healthy environment in which students, staff, contractors, guests and visitors may study, learn, work and socialize. For this reason, use, consumption and cultivation of recreational cannabis is prohibited at all Georgian College campuses, offices and properties; in all vehicles owned or otherwise controlled by the college; and at all locations where college-sanctioned events take place.

Scope

This procedure applies to all Georgian College students, staff, contractors, guests and visitors at all campuses; offices and property, including vehicles, that are owned, leased, rented or otherwise controlled by the college; and applies also to locations where college-sanctioned events are taking place.

This procedure is not intended to interfere with students or staff who require medical marijuana and who can provide documentation in accordance with the Cannabis Act of Ontario and the Access to Marijuana Regulation.

Definitions

Word / Term	Definition
Cannabis	Cannabis is a tall plant with a stiff upright stem, divided serrated leaves and glandular hairs. It is used to produce hemp fiber and as a psychotropic drug. Generally, through a dried process, the flowering tops or other parts of this plant, or a resinous extract (cannabis resin) are used as a psychotropic drug. Cannabis may include three species, namely: <i>sativa</i> , <i>indica</i> and <i>ruderalis</i> . Cannabis is the scientific name; the substance is commonly referred to as marijuana.
Marijuana	The term “marijuana” is a common name for cannabis in North America.
Medical Marijuana	Medical marijuana refers to the use of cannabis, including constituents of cannabis, THC and other cannabinoids, as a physician-recommended form of medicine.
Manufacturing	Manufacturing is the process in which, through the means of a chemical synthesis or a natural extraction, marijuana is produced for consumption.
Cultivation	Cultivation is the growing of a cannabis plant from planting and germination, through to harvesting. For the purposes of this procedure, cultivation includes all three stages.

Responsibility

- Use, consumption, growing and cultivation of recreational cannabis without prior approval is prohibited on all Georgian College property
- No person under age 19 may possess cannabis on or in any property owned, operated, leased or controlled by Georgian College
- Any person 19 years of age or older who is in possession of cannabis on campus must secure the product in a sealed and odour-proof container and may not possess more than the legal limit as stipulated in the Cannabis Act
- All members of the college community are responsible for immediately notifying Campus Safety Services when they observe or witness anyone breaching this procedure, if the violation is

occurring on campus or any other property, building or vehicle owned, leased, controlled or operated by Georgian College.

- Pursuant to The Cannabis Act of Ontario 2017, the use of recreational cannabis is not permitted in the workplace. As a property owner and employer, Georgian College is responsible for asserting its right to impose restrictions and prohibitions with respect to the use and consumption of substances on its property by students, staff, contractors, visitors and guests.
- Pursuant to the provisions of the Occupational Health and Safety Act, employees and workers have a duty to perform work safely and to report any hazards to their supervisor or employer. Employees and workers who are unable or unfit to work safely could be a hazard to themselves or to others in the workplace.
- At Georgian locations with posted security guards, these guards are responsible for responding immediately to suspected violations of this procedure. They are responsible for securing the safety of all concerned and to document the situation for referral to Campus Safety Services.
- On campuses where security guards are not posted, campus managers and deans shall take action as for security guards above.
- Senior persons in charge at off-campus events such as coaches, field trip supervisors, and event organizers, are responsible for ensuring compliance with this procedure and for taking steps to prevent or report violations. In the event of imminent safety concerns, calling 911 may be considered appropriate.
- Campus Safety Services is responsible for follow up investigation of incidents reported by security personnel.
- Emergency Response Services (911) are responsible, when called, to respond to any situation where personal safety is a concern.

Procedures

1.1 Suspected violations of procedure

- 1.1.1 All members of the college community are responsible for immediately notifying Campus Safety Services when they observe or witness anyone breaching this procedure if the violation is occurring on campus or any other property, building or vehicle owned, leased, controlled or operated by Georgian College.
- 1.1.2 If the violation of this procedure poses an immediate or imminent risk to the physical safety of anyone, the person witnessing this must enact emergency measures by first calling 911; followed by contacting Campus Safety Services at 705.722.5100. This process also applies at other locations where college-sanctioned events are occurring. Contacting Campus Safety Services may not always be practical or immediately necessary; however, Campus Safety Services must be informed within a reasonable period of time thereafter.
- 1.1.3 On campuses where security guard services are available, guards will respond immediately to instances where there is a breach or suspected violation of this procedure. Security will ensure the safety of all concerned and take appropriate

action under the circumstances. Security will document the incident and forward the report to Campus Safety Services for follow-up. In situations where the immediate safety of anyone is a concern, security will notify emergency response services (911) and follow their direction.

- 1.1.4 At no time, unless directed by police and only in extraordinary circumstances, will security seize, secure or otherwise handle cannabis, marijuana or any other narcotic or non-prescription controlled substance. Under no circumstances will the handling of any substance be undertaken without proper personal protective equipment .
- 1.1.5 On campuses or locations where security guard services are not available, the campus manager and/or the dean shall take the same actions as security for the purposes of this procedure.
- 1.1.6 This procedure extends to college-sanctioned events that are held off campus. Therefore, all college community members participating in these events are expected to comply with this procedure and to respect the federal, provincial and municipal laws accordingly. It is also the responsibility of the senior person in charge, e.g., coach, field trip supervisor, event organizer etc., to ensure compliance with this procedure and to take appropriate steps to prevent or report violations. When necessary to prevent imminent or immediate danger to anyone, contacting police may be deemed appropriate.

1.2 Investigations by Campus Safety Services

- 1.2.1 In all instances where there is a violation of this procedure, Campus Safety Services will commence an investigation.
- 1.2.2 Investigations involving students will be initiated under the Student Code of Conduct. The same obligatory provisions under the Student Code of Conduct regarding a student's responsibility to cooperate in an investigation apply to this procedure.
- 1.2.3 Investigations involving employees will be initiated under the Employee Code of Conduct.
- 1.2.4 In instances where the involved parties are contractors, Campus Safety Services will rely on the provision contained in the Contractor Safety Procedure and take immediate or subsequent actions to address the investigative findings available to them, including issuing a notice of trespass to the offender(s) if necessary.
- 1.2.5 Any guests or visitors found in violation of this procedure may be asked to leave the premises immediately and may be issued a notice of trespass from the property for a specified period of time, depending on circumstances.
- 1.2.6 Nothing in this procedure, or any other procedure, will prohibit security, a designated campus manager or dean, or a Campus Safety Services manager or the Executive Director from issuing an immediate trespass notice to guests and

visitors, prior to a full investigation being concluded where the situation may call for such action to be taken.

1.3 Occupational Health and Safety

- 1.3.1 Strict rules are in place to ensure workplaces are safe under the Ontario Cannabis Act 2017 and the Occupational Health and Safety Act (OHSA).
- 1.3.2 Hazards may arise from a worker's impairment due to the use of various substances such as alcohol, prescription and non-prescription medication, medical and recreational cannabis, or other substances. Workers performing tasks, when they are unable or unfit to do so safely, may introduce a hazard to the workplace, to themselves or to others.
- 1.3.3 Workers, supervisors and employers are required to address such hazards as a part of the Internal Responsibility System, pursuant to the Occupational Health and Safety Act (OHSA). Employees and workers have a duty to perform work safely and to report any hazards to their supervisor or employer.
- 1.3.4 The OHSA prohibits a worker from using or operating any equipment, machine, device or thing, or working in a manner that may endanger themselves or any other worker. This may include operating machinery or equipment while impaired.

1.4 Possession of Cannabis at Georgian College

- 1.4.1 No person under age 19 may possess cannabis on or in any property owned, operated, leased or controlled by Georgian College.
- 1.4.2 Any person 19 years of age or older who is in possession of cannabis on campus, must secure the product in a sealed and odour proof container and may not possess more than the legal limit as stipulated in the Cannabis Act.
- 1.4.3 No person, shall possess cannabis or cannabis edible products in any vehicle owned, leased, rented or controlled by Georgian College.

1.5 Use and growing of cannabis in student residence

- 1.5.1 The growing or use of cannabis at, or in, any on-campus residence or any student residence owned or operated by Georgian College is strictly prohibited.
- 1.5.2 Further, the making of any cannabis edible product, such as food and drinks, on or in any Georgian College facility or property is strictly prohibited. Therefore, for the purposes of this procedure, the term "use" includes the use of cannabis to make any cannabis products.
- 1.5.3 Students 19 years of age or older, registered to a Georgian College residence and under the regulations and occupancy agreements managed and controlled by the Campus Living Centres, may possess no more than 30 grams of dried cannabis.

- 1.5.4 Cannabis must be stored in an approved container and secured in a discreet location in the student's personal bedroom.

1.6 Medical marijuana

- 1.6.1 This procedure is not intended to interfere with persons who are prescribed medical marijuana. Students or staff who require the use of medical marijuana are required to produce documentation in accordance with the Cannabis Act of Ontario 2017 and the Access to Marijuana Regulation in order to demonstrate this exemption.
- 1.6.2 Accessibility advisors in Student Success Services will facilitate the use of medicinal cannabis for students prescribed medical marijuana. Details of the arrangements will be forwarded to Campus Safety Services as appropriate.
- 1.6.3 People and Culture will facilitate the use of medicinal cannabis for employees prescribed medical marijuana. Details of the arrangements will be forwarded to Campus Safety Services as appropriate.
- 1.6.4 Contractors are responsible for managing the use of medical marijuana on any job site owned or operated by Georgian College. They are also responsible for consulting with Campus Safety Services with respect to those arrangements prior to allowing their employees to consume medicinal marijuana anywhere on college property.

1.7 Counselling and supports for cannabis users

- 1.7.1 When requested, or otherwise required, **Student Success Services** will provide counselling services, supports and referrals to **students** with respect to harm reduction strategies.
- 1.7.2 When requested, or otherwise required, **Human Resource Services** consultants will provide counselling services, supports and referrals to employees with respect to harm reduction strategies.
- 1.7.3 The **Ministry of Colleges and Universities** (MCU) and **partner ministries** will continue to work together in developing resources, products and training to support education-sector professionals, parents and students in addressing cannabis-related concerns. They will help to leverage existing health sector resources, such as the Lower-Risk Cannabis Use Guidelines, to provide accurate health information to the public.
- 1.7.4

Related materials

Bill C-45

- On June 19, 2018, the Senate of Canada passed Bill C-45, the *Cannabis Act* which legalized the consumption of recreational cannabis across Canada. The Act became law in October 2018.

Bill 174

- On Dec. 12, 2017, Bill 174, the *Cannabis, Smoke-free Ontario and Road Safety Statute Law Amendment Act 2017*, became law. The Ontario government enacted this legislation to regulate and complement Bill C-45, the federal legislation legalizing the recreational use of cannabis and cultivation of marijuana plants on residential properties.
- The provincial law provides a legislative framework to limit harm, protect youth and young adults, eliminate the illegal market and enhance road safety. The legislation is available online at ontario.ca/laws/statute/S17026

Ontario Health and Safety Act

Georgian College Student Code of Conduct

Georgian College Employee Code of Conduct

Georgian College Contractor Safety Procedure